

## **Virginia Board of Dentistry**

### **Administration of Topical Oral Fluorides by Dental Hygienists under Standards adopted by the Virginia Department of Health**

- Chapter 702 of the 2007 Acts of the Assembly authorizes a dental hygienist to *administer topical oral fluorides under an oral or written order or a standing protocol issued by a dentist or a doctor of medicine or osteopathic medicine* in accordance with provisions of the Drug Control Act. (§ [54.1-2722](#))
- The Drug Control Act provides that: *A nurse or a dental hygienist may possess and administer topical fluoride varnish to the teeth of children aged six months to three years pursuant to an oral or written order or a standing protocol issued by a doctor of medicine or osteopathic medicine that conforms to standards adopted by the Virginia Department of Health.* (§ [54.1-3408](#))
- Only under the narrow provisions of § [54.1-2722](#) and § [54.1-3408](#) is a dental hygienist authorized to administer topical oral fluorides under a standing protocol developed by the Department of Health and signed by a doctor of medicine or osteopathic medicine. Such administration is limited to children aged six months to three years who receive home visits from the Health Department or who are enrolled in Head Start programs or who are clients of safety-net healthcare facilities (e.g. rural health, community health centers, mobile dental clinics, and Health Department programs).